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CARLOS RIVERA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) NO. CR 10-00351-ODW-7  
12 Plaintiff, ) DEFENDANT'S POSITION RE:  
13 v. ) SENTENCING;  
14 CARLOS RIVERA, ) Hearing Date: March 11, 2013  
15 Defendant. ) Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.  
16 )

Defendant, Carlos Rivera, by and through his counsel of record, Angel Navarro, Attorney at Law, hereby submits his position paper with respect to the upcoming sentencing hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

26 || DATED: March 5, 2013

By                          /s/  
ANGEL NAVARRO  
Attorney at Law

1 I  
2  
3

INTRODUCTION

4 Carlos Rivera will be appearing before the Court following a  
5 jury trial wherein Mr. Rivera was convicted of numerous charges  
6 associated with the Black Angels street gang RICO case. Mr. Rivera  
7 was originally arrested on June 2, 2010. Mr. Rivera has been in  
8 continuos custody since that date. Mr. Rivera will be appearing  
9 for sentencing on March 11, 2013.

10 II  
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DEFENDANT'S POSITION

13 Federal sentencing requires that the Court consider  
14 sentencing factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a). These  
15 statutory provisions require that the Court impose a sentence that  
16 is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to achieve the goals  
17 of sentencing. In addition, the Court has some sentencing  
18 discretion as a result of case law that has interpreted United  
19 States v. Booker.

20  
21 **The 3553 Factors:**

22  
23 Prior to imposing a sentence, the Court must consider the  
24 factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a) (2). These factors include:  
25

26 (1) The need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of  
27 the crime; to promote respect for the law, and to provide a just  
28 punishment for the crime in question;

1       (2) The need for the sentence imposed to provide adequate  
2 deterrence to criminal conduct;

3

4       (3) The need for the sentence imposed to protect the public from  
5 further crimes of the defendant; and

6

7       (4) The need for sentence imposed to provide the defendant with  
8 needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other  
9 correctional treatment in the most effective manner.

10

11           In addition, in choosing the appropriate sentence in  
12 accordance with the 3553(a)(2) factors, the Court is required to  
13 take into consideration: the nature and circumstances of the  
14 offense; the history and characteristics of the defendant; the  
15 purposes of sentencing; the kinds of sentences available by  
16 statute; the Sentencing Guidelines and any policy statements; the  
17 need to avoid sentencing disparities; and restitution issues. (The  
18 3553(a)(1) factors).

19

20 **The Seriousness of Crime, Promoting Respect for the Law, and  
21 Providing a Just Punishment:**

22

23           Mr. Rivera would be the first to admit that this was a very  
24 serious matter. Mr. Rivera has never denied that he was a member  
25 of the Black Angels. During the trial it was self-evident that Mr.  
26 Rivera was a member of the gang and that he was involved in the  
27 gang's activities. At the same, it also appears from the available  
28 evidence that Mr. Rivera's primary motivation for being involved in

1 criminal behavior was to provide for his family. He clearly  
2 understands that by deciding to break the law, there would be  
3 consequences associated with his behavior. As this Court is  
4 obviously aware, narcotics trafficking and narcotics abuse are two  
5 of the more challenging obstacles facing law enforcement. In  
6 addition, drug abuse has consequences which affect nearly all  
7 aspects of American society. Courts must make sure that narcotics  
8 traffickers be punished for their illegal activities.

9

10 This Court must balance the aforementioned societal interests  
11 with a fair and just sentence. In the case of Mr. Rivera, this  
12 Court must determine just how much jail time is a fair and just  
13 punishment for the crime committed. Mr. Rivera clearly understands  
14 that he must be punished for his actions. He only asks that this  
15 Court be fair when it comes to imposing the ultimate penalty.

16

17 **General and Specific Deterrence:**

18

19 This Court has to consider both general and specific  
20 deterrence in a case of this nature. General deterrence dictates  
21 that the Court fashion a sentence which the public can look to. In  
22 addition, the Court must impose a sentence which takes into account  
23 Mr. Rivera and deters him from further criminal activity. Mr.  
24 Rivera is aware that this Court will impose a custodial sentence of  
25 no less than ten years in federal prison. The sentence imposed in  
26 this case will be the longest sentence ever received by Mr. Rivera.  
27 Mr. Rivera clearly understands that he must not be involved in  
28 criminal behavior.

1     **Nature and Circumstances of the Offense:**

2

3                 The government's investigation of the Black Angels street  
4 gang has been on-going for a number of years. It appears that the  
5 government had been investigating this gang for almost ten years by  
6 the time that Mr. Rivera was first intercepted over one of the  
7 monitored telephone lines in this case. Mr. Rivera was ultimately  
8 intercepted making small drug sales, purchasing a firearm, and he  
9 was ultimately intercepted with a larger amount of narcotics. Mr.  
10 Rivera was a target of this federal investigation for a very short  
11 period of time. Mr. Rivera was apparently involved in criminal  
12 activity for a period of time between mid-July 2009 and early  
13 August 2009.

14

15                 As set forth in the pre-sentence report (PSR), Mr. Rivera was  
16 involved in obtaining a firearm on July 22, 2009, and with  
17 distribution of narcotics on July 31, and August 6, 2009. After  
18 the August 6, 2009, incident, Mr. Rivera was arrested and charged  
19 with a parole violation. Mr. Rivera was subsequently released from  
20 state custody and was arrested federally in June of 2010.

21

22     **History and Characteristics of Carlos Rivera:**

23

24                 Carlos Rivera was born and raised in southern California. As  
25 noted in the PSR, Mr. Rivera was raised primarily by his mother. It  
26 also appears from the PSR that Mr. Rivera was introduced to gangs  
27 at a very early age. The PSR indicates that two of Mr. Rivera's  
28 older siblings were sent away to prison prior to Mr. Rivera's

1 eighteenth birthday. Unfortunately, Mr. Rivera followed in the  
2 footsteps of at least one of his siblings. Mr. Rivera has also  
3 enjoyed the support of a surrogate mother in Mrs. Velia Prieto.  
4 Mrs. Prieto is the mother of co-defendant Raul Prito. Mrs. Prieto  
5 has been a very positive influence in Mr. Rivera's life. Mrs.  
6 Prieto has submitted a letter of support which is being filed  
7 separately.

8

9 **Purposes of Sentencing:**

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11 This Court must take this very important factor into  
12 consideration prior to the imposition of sentencing. Some of the  
13 important purposes of sentencing have been previously mentioned in  
14 this filing and include deterrence, protecting the public and  
15 providing a just sentence. Criminal defendants and society as a  
16 whole must understand that criminal behavior cannot be tolerated.  
17 In addition, the Court must make sure that individuals be deterred  
18 from criminal behavior. In the case of Mr. Rivera, he clearly  
19 understands that the decisions that he made were wrong. He also  
20 recognizes that he must be held accountable for his behavior.

21

22 **The Kinds of Sentences Available:**

23

24 This Court has some discretion when it comes to sentencing in  
25 this case. This Court must impose a jail sentence of no less than  
26 ten years in federal prison.

27 /  
28 /

1           **Sentencing Guidelines and Policy Statements:**

3           In this case, the PSR had determined that the advisory  
4 Guideline Range should be as follows:

5           (1) base offense level:                           34

7           In addition, the PSR indicates that Mr. Rivera should be  
8 placed in Criminal History category V. The corresponding  
9 sentencing range is 210-262 months in custody.

10           **The Need to Avoid Sentencing Disparity:**

13           This is a 50-defendant case. A number of Mr. Rivera's co-  
14 defendants have been sentenced. The Court has imposed sentences  
15 which range from a low of 12 months to a high of 169 months. In  
16 the case of Mr. Rivera, this Court is required to impose a prison  
17 term of no less than 120 months in prison.

19           **Restitution Issues:**

21           Restitution does not appear to be an issue in the case of Mr  
22 Rivera.

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## What Sentence Should This Court Impose?

Carlos Rivera respectfully requests that this Court impose a prison term of 144 months. Mr. Rivera also requests that this Court recommend that Mr. Rivera be allowed to participate in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) 500-hour drug program. Finally, Mr. Rivera requests that this Court recommend to the BOP that Mr. Rivera serve his sentence in a facility in California to allow for Mr. Rivera's family to be able to visit him while he is in custody.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: March 5, 2013

By                         /s/  
ANGEL NAVARRO  
Attorney at Law

## PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare that I am a resident or employed in Los Angeles County, California; that my business address is The Petroleum Building, 714 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 450, Los Angeles, California 90015; that I am over the age of eighteen years; that I am not a party to the above-entitled action; and that I served the Defendant's Position Re: Sentencing.

9           On March 5, 2013, following ordinary business practice,  
10 service was:

11 [ ] Placed in a closed envelope, for collection and hand delivery by our internal staff,  
12 [ ] By hand-delivery addressed as follows:  
13 addressed as follows:

[ ] Placed in a sealed envelope for collection and mailing via United States Mail, as follows:

14 [ ] By facsimile as follows:

15 [x] By e-mail as follows:

16 Robert Leoning  
United States Probation Officer  
17 312 N. Spring Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

This proof of service is executed at Los Angeles, California,  
on March 5, 2013.

21 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true  
22 and correct to the best of my knowledge

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/s/  
Angel Navarro  
Attorney At Law